What reader of Charles Reade's ever popular novel, "It's Never Too Late to Mend," has not been touched by the intensely thrill ing stories of prison life contained in it and felt deep sympathy with the poor sufferers whose terrible experiences are so vividity

forms a wenderful chapter of prison life in the fittles, and also contrasts in a striking manner the treatment of prisoners now

adopted.

In 1832 Lieutenant Austin was appointed governor of Winson Green prison. He had formerly been in the navy, and in that service had forced blueself to the concluden that discipline was everything. He took a delight in severe punishment and considered that a breach of prison discipline was a crime almost greater than that for which a prisoner entered a jail. He planted his faith to constant threats of punishment and an almost perpetual use of those barbarous tortures, the collar, straitjacket, dark cells and crank labor.

It was in 1855 that the public first had

dark cells and crank labor.

It was in 1853 that the public first had their suspicious aroused that cruelities of a gross character were being practiced in the Birmingham jail. In that year a 15-year old boy committed suicide in order to escape torthous punishment. The facts that came out at the inquest highly incensed the inhabitants.

It was proved beyond doubt that strait-jackets were constantly used as punish-ment for the smallest offense, such as the inability of a prisoner to tailfil the amount of crank labor set him, or for talking to another prisoner, or for using bad language. These Jackets were provided with per-

These packets were provided with per-fectly rigid collars In inches long, 3), inches deep and one-quarter inch thick. The pris-oner was first muffled in the jacket, with his arms tied together on his breast, and then strapped so tightly at the back that it was impossible to insert a finger between the strap and the flesh. The leather collar was then fastened on in such a manner that it cut the chin and nock and prevented any movement of the head. Then the prisoner was fastened up to the wall of his coll in a standing position. This punishment was terribly painful, and yet it frequently last-ed for hours, and on occasions boys of 15

were kept in such positions from 0 o'clock in the morning until 10 att night! Very often they fainted and were then brought round by a liberal application of water, which was thrown on them from

The prisoners in this position were fed by

The prisoners in this position were led by a warden, who broke up the breast and placed it in the prisoner's mouth. Some-times, however, the collar was so tight that a prisoner could not swallow breast or water. Among the labor boys had to perform was the turning of a crank handle with a 10 pound pressure upon it for 10,000 revo-lations between source and night. So lutions between sunrise and night, So-many revolutions had to be made before breakfast, so many before dinner, so many before supper. If the required number was not completed before breakfast, no breakfast; if not completed before dinner, no dinner; if not before supper, no supper, so that a weakly man or boy would go a whole day without food, and would think himself lucky if at 10 o'clock at night be got eight ounces of brown bread and a pin of water,

During the whole of the time these abominable crucities were being practiced, the chaplain and Mr. Brown were doing their pline adopted by the harsh governor. They worked together with a will, and many, many times have prisoners fallen on their knees in thankfulness for timely succor which had been rendered them. At length, at the demand of the inhabi-

tants of Birmingham, a royal commission of inquiry was held to inquire into the truth of the allegations. The whole of them were found to be true.

One particularly pitiable case was that of a boy named Edward Andrews, about whom, in the name of Josephus, Reade gives a true and heartrending account. Mr. Brown has a vived recollection of this poor boy. He was sent to fail for three months for stealing four pounds of beef. He was very weak, but was notwithstanding put

to the crank.

One day the chaplain, Mr. Sherwin, was attracted to the hoy's cell by cries of "Murder!" He found the boy crying pitconsly, and he said he was being starved. He was in the straitjacket at the time, and the chaplain tried to insert one of his fingers between the collar and the boy's neck, but failed. Mr. Brown happened to be passing at the time, and he slackened the straps on his own responsibility and greatly re-

suicide in his cell.

Austin was afterward tried at Warwick be a "wagon boss," and the other to ussizes for his diabolicall ill treatment and steambout captain. St. Louis Letter.

was sent to jail for three months.

He is now, like the majority of the actors in this dreadful drama, dead, ... Mr.

Brown still officiates as the chief arder in the prison and takes a most kindly interest in any prisoners who are desirous or referming themselves.—London Tit-Bits.

Speed of Homing Pigeons.

Thirty or thirty-five miles an hour is a fair average in good weather for a pigeon. The greater the distance, the smaller the probability of the prompt return of the bird. At a distance of, say, 100 miles, almost all birds return safely if the weather the favorable hot at distance of the favorable hot at distance of the favorable hot at distance of the safely if the weather the hashon for all well shaded lawns to have its treasured wild woods garden, some of our handsomest native shrubs are still neglected.

Many of the early flowering varieties may be safely transplanted, and those in bloom now may be marked for transplanted in place of the favorable hot and the favorable hot are the hashon for all well shaded lawns to have its treasured wild woods garden, some of our handsomest native shrubs are still neglected. bird. At a distance of, say, 100 miles, almost all birds return safely if the weather is favorable, but at distances of 400 or 500 inglater, after the flowers disappear. Those miles it is impossible to rection confidently on the hird's return. It appears curious, but it is a well established fact that as the bird nears its home its speed is accelerated.

—Philadelphia Press.

in an analysis in the convergadasppear. Those miles the in the country seldom realize their opportunities for home adornment with these shruks growing wild only a blort distance from their barren, uncultivated lawns.—Garden and Forest. -Philadelphia Press.

Daily Work of a Young Mother,

Mr. Alexander Graham Bell calculates that a mother, in talking to her infant, speaks 35,000 words a day—equal to about four hours of continuous talking, and this notwithstanding the fact that the baby does not know what any single one of the 35,000 words means .- London Tit-Bits.

Baked Lemon For Hoarseness. A baked lemon is said to be an excellent remedy for hourseness and one that is often resorted to by singers and public speakers. The lemon is baked like an apple and a lit-tle of the heated and thickened juice squeezed over lump sugar.—New York Times.

Passenger—Can you teil me what are the times for these busses to leave the Swiss cottage?

What a break that was for the minister to say 'dust to dust' when they were married?'

"He probably had in mind the

cottage? Driver—Quarter after—'arf after—quarter to-and at -London Punch.

BEATEN AT HIS OWN GAME.

Youthful Auditor Tells a Story Bigger Than Uncle Bill Does.

WERE STRICTLY TRUE.

The Author of "It's Never Too Late to Mend" Described Thrilling Punishments of Prison Life That Really Took Place In an Old English Jall.

The Author of "It's Never Too Late to Mend" Described Thrilling Punishments of Prison Life That Really Took Place In an Old English Jall.

The Author of "It's Never Too Late to Mend" Described Thrilling Punishments of them were connected in some way with the Hudson, as he had spent nearly Lis whole life on the river.

Sented up a string-piece of the wharf one

Seated on a stringpiece of the wharf or afternoon with a number of youngsters around him he began by telling his audience what a wonderful river the Hudson

Boys," he said, "I tell yer that 'ere is a mighty fine river. Yer kin go most any-where yer mind to on her. Yessir, yer kin

told? No one, we would assert. The story reads like a highly colored fection, yet every word of it is absolutely true.

Very few people may be aware that this celebrated book was founded on the cruel ties practiced in the libratic, and juiling the character of Evans, the homan flarian, still lives, and in fact is even new in the service of the prison anthorities. He is Mr. William Brown, the chief warden of Winson Green jail, Birmingham, and many times be has been offered a large remained to appear on the stage to play the part of himself in an adaptation of Reade's brilliant nevel.

His story is indeed a sensational one and forms a wonderful chapter of prison life in the first stage to paye with the classification of the stage to play the part of himself in an adaptation of Reade's brilliant nevel.

"How did you like havin the West Point fellers shoot holes through the mainsail, Unde Bill!" asked an auditor. "I didn't like it nohow. "Tain't no use tryin ter fool with them fellers, they're tew

tryin ter fool with them fellers, they be tow everlastin reckalous. One o' them shots purty near took off my whiskers."
"My! Unels Bill that was a narrer es-eape," remarked an impudent youngster, with a wink at his grinning companions, "but it ain't narthin to what I had once when I was fightin Injuns out west. One when I was right in Injuns out west. One evenin jest about sunset I was going home to the camp when all of a suiden an Injun jumps from behind a bush, and before I could do anything he put up his rifle and fired right at my head. I saw the builet comin an caught it between my teeth and shook it at him. The Injun gave a yell and run as hard as he could."

shook it it inim. The thjun gave a yer and run as hard as he could."

There was a howl from the other boys, but I hele Bill, with a look of deep disgust at being iseaten at his own game, exclaimed

in tones of great disapproval:
"Ah, you shaller pill, you, what do yer
want ter lie to er poor ole man fur?" And
he got up and walked slowly away.

Superstitions About Old Girdles. Girdles were an object of superstition, more especially if they had belonged to female saints. Such girdles were popularly

believed to possess a certain remarkable power the power, namely, of protection women from some of the more serious ill-nesses that are attendant or consequent upon childbirth. This superstition per-meated through all classes of the sex. Queens credited the miraculous virtues of our lady's girdie" and paid large priess for the loan of one. The majority of these girdles were believed to have been the property, during her lifetime, of St. Mar. garet, the gracious petroness of married women. Nearly every numbery in England—to say nothing of France—possessed one. There is in an old Irish pasm, with the charmingly suphonious title of "Oran Eadar Allie Agus MacRonain Air Dhoibh Fearg a Ghalhail Ri Fionn," an allasion to the efficacy of an enchanted or sanctified girdle in this same direction, and we are further informed that "sickness cannot affect the extraction of the effect of the control of the enchanted of the enchan

further informed that "sickness cannot affect those whom their girdle binds."

In Ossian there is mention made to much the same effect. It does not matter that the poems of Ossian, as put before the world by Mr. Macpherson, are not genuine.

One of the schoolmusters' commentators says that "sanctified girdles till very lately was the control of the control of the school of the says that "sanctified girdles in the north of Scotland. They were impressed with sev-eral mystical figures, and the ceremony of binding them about the woman's waist was accompanied with words and gestures which showed the custom to have come originally from the Druids."—Chambers' Louwel.

Quarters For an Alligator. The alligator which accompanies he nearly every traveler to Florida and often performs the journey by himself in a box by mail should have both water and dry land so that be can choose for himself where he will abide. I have seen one kept HIGHEST in a tub of water unchanged till it was of fensive, and another who had absolutely no access to water at all. Both these treat ments were improper and cruel. A good way to make an alligator comfortable way to make an alligator comfortable, which we are bound to do if we snatch him from his home and deprive him of liberty, is to prepare a large box that will hold water, with a board running up out of the water that he can occupy if he desires. A little pile of rocks, behind or within which he can hide, will be a welcome addition to his quarters. For food, place oysters o cut raw beef where he can get it. He usu ally prefers to eat in solitude, but his keeper must remove the remains if there be any the next day. The water should be changed often and kept sweet.—Olive Thorne Miller in Harper's Bazar.

Songs of the Roustabouts.

It was a grand sight to the small boys of Lexington to see the deckhands swagger-ing along one at each end of a coal box and 50 men in line carrying coal to the bunkers of such boats as the F. X. Auberg, James on his own responsibility and greatly re-lieved the little sufferer.

Several times after this the boy was pun-can sing, or as they could in those days. on his own responsibility and greatly relieved the little sufferer.

Several times after this the boy was punished by order of Austin, and on many occasions buckets of water were thrown overhim. Once Brown found the boy strapped
to the wall, and on being released he fell
to the ground insensible. On April 27 he
put an end to his sufferings by committing
suicide in his cell.

H. Lucas, Polar Star and Clara, and if they
were negro hands singing only as negroes
can sing, or as they could in those days.

The coal was carried aboard at night by the
light of the pine knot fire, and the small
hoy sat around and caught the words of a
how song. The boys got their songs in
those days from the circus and the steamboats. The "border boys" had but two
ambitions—one was to gross the plains and ambitions—one was to cross the plains and

> Transplanting Native Shrubs. The beauty of our native shrubs and their use as flowering ornaments for large lawns becomes more appreciated in each succeed ing year. While the cultivation of our na lar until now it is quite the fashion for all well shaded lawns to have its treasured wild woods garden, some of our handsom-

The Grumbler and the Boy.

"Clumsy!" exclaimed the pedestrian when he was struck on the foot by the broom of the shopboy who was sweeping off the side-

"I don't know about that," replied the boy. "I've swept off this sidewalk every morning for two years. Probably a million persons have passed while I was sweeping.

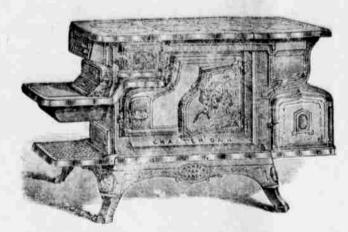
persons have passed while I was sweeping, and you are the first one I've hit."
"If you had missed bitting a bundred mil-lion, what difference would that make to me!" said the pedestrian as he went off with his mouth full of grumble.-Boston Transcript.

Natural Mistake. "What a break that was for the minister

"He probably had in mind that two great fortunes were united by the alliance."-Truth.

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